Preface

For many decades the role of the public servant in common law jurisdictions had been well established but, as with many other aspects of the working world, a gradual evolution of the recognised models commenced towards the latter part of the twentieth century. In the 1990s and for the first few years of this century, the area of public sector employment law was undergoing substantial changes, as exemplified by the reform ideas and developments in the Public Service Act 1999 (Cth) and the new corporate model of the Commonwealth public service.

The idea for this book of essays, to examine and analyse these changes, came out of the public sector employment project for which Phillipa Weeks and I were awarded an Australian Research Council Large Grant.

Phillipa and I enjoyed countless academic discussions and a similar approach to the scholarship in the field. Her debilitating illness and untimely death were tragic blows, both personally for me in the loss of a friend and academic colleague for whom I had the utmost respect and for the book project of which she was an integral part. The loss of an esteemed co-editor and contributor during the production of the book meant that, for me and the other contributors, the project became tinged with real sadness.

There are many people who deserve our grateful thanks — Professor Michael Coper for his generous personal and institutional support (as Dean of the College of Law at The Australian National University) and for his tribute to Phillipa Weeks published in this book; research assistants Emma Pelka-Caven and Vidal Vanhoof; external style editor Phillip Litchfield; Peter Kennedy and Paul Munro for early input on themes and scholarly exchanges; the Australian Research Council for its grant funding; and of course the contributors themselves - all experts in their areas, willing participants in the project and very supportive colleagues. There are others to whom I am sure Phillipa would wish to have conveyed her grateful thanks, including her husband Ian Hancock who provided continuing support for Phillipa and the book project.

The ANU E Press and staff also deserve our sincere thanks for their support; and thanks, in particular, are due to Lorena Kanellopoulos, of ANU E Press, for her cheerful and professional assistance. Thank you to Vic Elliott, Director of Scholarly Information Services and University Librarian for his assistance in organising the approval of this book.

Bruce Moore, my husband, provided his painting to which Teresa Prowse of the ANU E Press applied her inspiration to create the cover design — thank you!
It is to Phillipa Weeks that this book is dedicated, with grateful appreciation.

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